Development of International Airports

915. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGGARWALLA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the money spent on development of various International Airports, Airport-wise ;

(b) whether private Airlines are allowed to use various facilities like Air strips, Terminal, Office lounge, Navigation facilities, Parking facility etc. on these Airports ;

(c) if so, what charges are realised from these private Airlines for the facilities on each of these International Airports ;

(d) how much money was actually collected from these Air-lines since their operation, month-wise ; and

(e) whether any dues are outstanding, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Tourism Potential in Ladakh Festival

916. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Ladakh festival was organised sometime back in Jammu and Kashmir to tap tourism potential of that region ;

(b) if so, the number of tourists, both foreign and local, who visited the festival ;

(c) the spots identified for further development for tourists' attraction ; and

(d) what is the Central grant earmarked for each such tourist spot ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About 700 tourists visited the festival. Of these, 500 were foreign tourists.

(c) Some travel circuits/destinations, including Kullu-Manali-Leh have have been identified for integrated development under the National Action Plan.

(d) Development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. However, Central grant is extended on the basis of specific proposals received from State Governments/Union Territories. Such proposals are considered on the basis of their merits, *inter se* priorities and availability of fund.

Use of Old Aircrafts

917. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the jamming of flaps and seats crippled the aircraft which met with an accident while flying to Delhi from Madras ;

(b) whether this defect could have been noted, if Indian Airlines carry out the inflight checkings or their aircrafts ;

(c) whether the aircraft that crash landed was acquired in the year 1976 and hence has to be phased out ; and

(d) if so, the number of such old aircrafts which are in use at present ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) An A-300 aircraft of India Airlines made a forced-landing near Tirupati on 15-11-93. The accident is under investigation by a Court of Inquiry.

(c) and (d) The aircraft which was involved in the accident was acquired in 1976. The aircraft was not intended to be phased out immediately. Indian Airlines has 3 more A-300 aircraft manufactured in 1976. A special inspection of the flaps and slats system of these aircraft was conducted after the above accident and no defect was observed.